

City of Waukegan

Waukegan Illinois 60085
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EPA Region 5 Records Ctr



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STATE OF ILLINOIS

November 11 1981

Bill Morris
Bill Durkin
Sam Filippo

Mayor
City Clerk
City Treasurer

Kenneth P Bechely
Northern Region Manager
Environmental Protection Agency
1701 S First Street
Maywood Il 60153

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EPA - DLPC
STATE OF ILLINOIS



Dear Mr Bechely

I read with interest a comment in the news media last week that the reason the EPA is considering a law suit against the city of Waukegan regarding the Yorkhouse landfill site is that we have not budgeted any money to clean up that site. If that is the reason I am disappointed because we have in fact budgeted \$150 000 for the current fiscal year specifically for the purpose of continuing clean up of the four landfill sites my administration inherited.

As of today the city has spent over \$260 000 to clean up these sites since 1980. This does not even count tens of thousands of dollars in money and labor by our own city crews. This fiscal year we intend to spend another \$50 000 as we try to recover these sites. Obviously my administration has made a strong commitment toward resolving these landfill problems which we inherited. It seems to me rather counterproductive to have you and the Attorney General's office suing us when we are making good faith efforts to solve the problem. All these law suits do is drain our available revenues. I would much rather see the Environmental Protection Agency intervene on our behalf to obtain state and possibly federal funds to help solve this problem.

Obviously while the city of Waukegan's hands are in no way clean on this matter, the EPA and the Attorney General's office also could use a hand washing. Where was the EPA and its predecessor agency when these landfills were being improperly developed and managed? Where was the Attorney General's office as this problem got out of control?

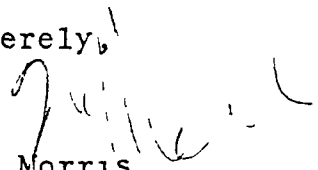
It seems to me rather absurd that my administration and the current city council which is making a good faith effort and spending a substantial portion of taxpayers' dollars to solve these problems is abused both legally and in the media by two agencies which should be our partners in correcting the problems since you were the city's silent partner in creating problems.

In this period of limited revenues available to all levels of government, the Waukegan City Council still was willing to appropriate substantial funds to work on this situation. Our funding from the state has been severely restricted as has the availability of federal funds. And yet, against this dismal backdrop we have moved toward a solution.

Kenneth P Bechely
November 10, 1981
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Obviously, you have a right to sue and we will provide a strong defense
I just thought it was important that you be aware of my feelings

Sincerely,


Bill Morris
Mayor

cc Attorney General Tyrone Fahner
Director Richard Carlson Ill EPA Springfield
Ellis Perl
Tom Vick

MBM jca